The Department of Women and Child Development is examining a draft legislation to prohibit sexual harassment of women at workplace.

Amendment have been made to the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 so that the sexual harassment of women at workplace in the private sector could constitute an offence for which a workman is liable for disciplinary action.

Necessary instruction have been issued by the Ministry of labour and Employment during January, 2005 to all State Labour Secretaries asking them to take suitable action to apply the provisions of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 to small establishments like call centres and shops in the unorganised sector.

Media campaign has been undertaken by the Department of Women and Child Development to create awareness on various issues concerning women and children, including compliance with the Supreme Court's guidelines on the prevention of sexual harassment of women at workplace.

Villages with vocational training facilities

†3269. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of villages where facilities for vocational training are available in the schools and colleges; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by Government till date to increase the vocational courses in such schools and colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Since the inception of the Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education at +2 level in 1987-88, around 8000 schools have been selected for conducting over 21000 vocational sections. While selecting schools under the scheme, preference is also being given to villages in rural areas lacking in such facilities. The existing scheme is under revision for wider scope and coverage. In addition to the Vocational Higher Secondary Schools, 5114 Industrial Training Institutes/Centres are also providing Craftsmen Training and under the Scheme of University Grants Commission 2758 institutes/colleges were assisted for conducting vocational courses at degree level.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.